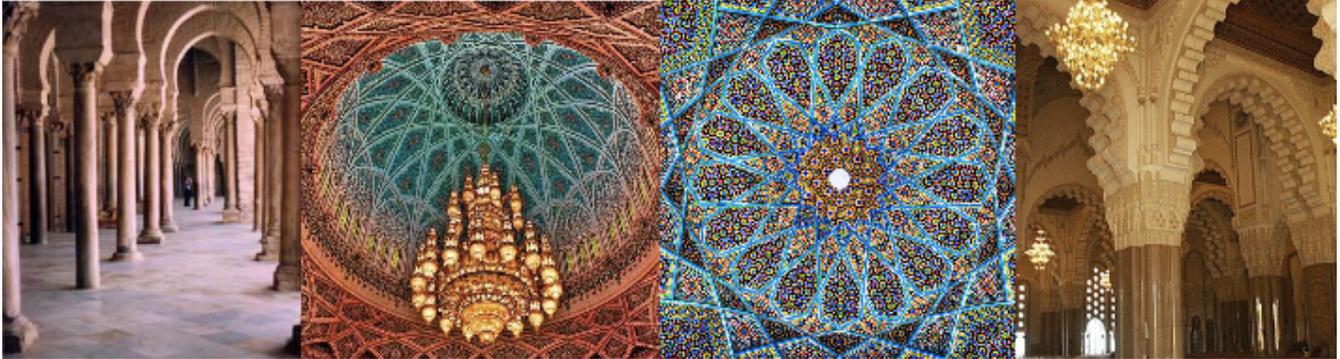


Program in Middle Eastern Studies



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

Dear Students, Alumnae, Colleagues and Friends of Middle Eastern Studies,

As another academic year draws to a close, it is a pleasure to congratulate our graduating seniors and to convey our greetings to our continuing students and to our alumnae, colleagues and friends. We hope that the year has been enjoyable and productive.

Faculty members and students in Middle Eastern Studies mark the end of another busy year. Under the inspired leadership of Professor Rachid Aadnani, our Arabic Language Program continues to thrive, and our courses in Arabic consistently attract robust enrollments. This year the Program was delighted to welcome our Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in Arabic, Ms. Eman Abu Salah. We are most grateful to Ms. Abu Salah for her excellent contributions to our Arabic Program and we wish her every success in the future. Faculty members across departments continue to add new courses for credit in the major, such as, this year, 'The Medi-terranean(s)' (Professor Lamia Balafrej) and 'Sexuality in the Muslim and Arab Worlds' (Professor Sima Shakhsari).

For the first time this year, Middle Eastern Studies was able to offer students of Arabic the opportunity to apply for a small number of Summer Language Study Stipends. The purpose of the stipends was to assist students wishing to advance their proficiency in Arabic by enrolling in approved intensive summer programs; the stipends are especially appropriate for students planning to study abroad in Arabic-speaking countries in the following year. A grant from the College's Academic Gift Fund allowed us to introduce these stipends this year, and we very much hope to be able to offer them again next year.

In programming, our main event for the year, co-sponsored with the Program in Jewish Studies, was a superb evening of music performed by The Boston Camerata and the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble. Entitled 'Muslims, Jews and Christians: In Search of Convivencia Through Music', the event highlighted the musical culture of al-Andalus. The Boston Camerata and the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble performed a wide range of pieces, and Joel Cohen, Director Emeritus of The Boston

Camerata, discussed the musical traditions and practices of al-Andalus. The Program in Middle Eastern Studies is deeply grateful to Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet, whose generous gift to the Program made the evening possible.

Once again, we offer our congratulations to our graduating seniors and their families, and our very best regards to our alumnae, colleagues and friends. We wish you all a pleasant summer.

With best wishes,

Louise Marlow
Suzette '58 and Jay R. Schochet Director of Middle Eastern Studies

CURRICULAR NEWS

COURSE OFFERINGS IN ARABIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES 2015-16

FALL 2015 COURSES

ARAB 101 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: None

Term(s): Fall. M,T,W,Th 8:30-9:40; M,T,W, Th 9:50-11:00

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB 201 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

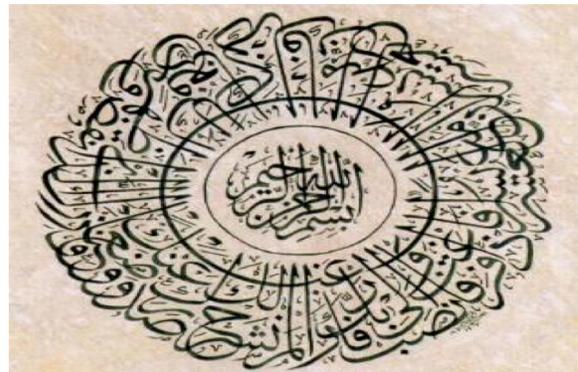
A continuation of ARAB 101-ARAB 102. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 102 or permission of the instructor.

Term(s): Fall. M,W,Th 8:30-9:40am;
M,W,Th 9:50-11:00am

Each semester of ARAB 201 and ARAB 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course



ARAB/MES 310 - Resistance and Dissent in North Africa and the Middle East (1.0)

An exploration of themes of resistance and dissent in the literatures and cultures of North Africa and the Middle East since the early 1980s. Topics include the rise of democratic movements, such as political parties, associations, and NGOs; the role and importance of Islam to the identity of contemporary nation-states in the region; the status of women and minorities in the ideologies of the movements under study; and the status and implications of dissent. Materials studied include works of fiction and nonfiction, films, speeches, song lyrics, and online publications.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: Open to students who have taken at least one course in Middle Eastern Studies, and to juniors and seniors by permission of the instructor.

Term(s): Fall. T 1:30-4:00

HIST 115 First-Year Seminar: Routes of Exile: Jews and Muslims (1.0)

This course will examine exile—both internal and geographic—through contemporary memoirs, letters, novels, and films. Our primary focus will be on Jews and Muslims living in North Africa and the Middle East. Questions to be asked include: How was community defined? What provided the author with a sense of belonging? What prompts his/her exile? Is the homeland portable? If so, how, and on what terms? Each week we shall explore a different expression of exile. Discussion will include comparisons and contrasts with previous readings.

Instructor: Malino

Prerequisite: None. Open to first year students only.

Distribution: HS

Term(s); Fall. W 2:15-4:45

Normally alternates with REL 269

REL 260 - Islamic/ate Civilizations (1.0)

Historical survey of Muslim-majority societies and the diverse cultural forms produced within them from the seventeenth century to the beginnings of the modern period. Topics include literary and artistic expression, architecture, institutions, philosophical and political thought, religious thought and practice. Critical attention to the concept of “civilization” and its uses and drawbacks for understanding the complex historical and cultural processes under study in the course.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: REP, HS

Term(s): Fall; T, F 9:50-11:00

Normally alternates with REL 269.

REL 367 - Seminar: Muslim Travelers

An exploration of the experiences and writings of Muslim travelers from the Middle Ages to the present in West, South, East, and Central Asia, North Africa, Europe, and America. Focus on the wide range of cultural encounters facilitated by journeys for purposes of pilgrimage, study, diplomacy, exploration, migration, and tourism, and on the varied descriptions of such encounters in forms of literary expression associated with travel, including poetry, pilgrimage manuals, narrative accounts, letters, memoirs, and graffiti. Authors include al-Biruni, Ibn Jubayr, Ibn Battuta, Evliya Çelebi, al-Tahtawi, Garahani, Abu Talkib Khan Asayeh.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: Open to juniors and seniors, students who have taken at least one unit in Middle Eastern Studies, and by permission of the instructor. If taking course for credit in Arabic, ARAB 202 or equivalent.

Distribution: LL; REP

Cross-Listed as: ARAB 368

Term(s): Fall. W 9:50-12:20



SPRING 2016 COURSES

ARAB 102 - Elementary Arabic (1.0)

An introduction to the Arabic language. The course takes a comprehensive approach to language learning and emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to the principles of grammar, taught how to read and write in the Arabic alphabet, and trained in the basics of everyday conversation. Through the use of a variety of written, video and audio materials, as well as other resources made available through the Web, the course emphasizes authentic materials and stresses the active participation of students in the learning process.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 101

Term(s): Spring. M,T,W, Th 8:30-9:40;
M,T,W,Th 9:50-11:00

Each semester of ARAB 101 and ARAB 102 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.



ARAB 202 - Intermediate Arabic (1.0)

A continuation of ARAB 201. The course takes students to a deeper and more complex level in the study of the Arabic language. While continuing to emphasize the organizing

principles of the language, the course also introduces students to a variety of challenging texts, including extracts from newspaper articles, as well as literary and religious materials. Students will be trained to work with longer texts and to gain the necessary communicative skills to prepare them for advanced-level Arabic.

Instructor: Aadnani

Prerequisite: ARAB 201 or permission of instructor.

Term(s): Spring. M,W, Th 8:30-9:40am;
M,W,Th 9:50-11:00am

Each semester of ARAB 201 and 202 earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.

ARAB 301 - Advanced Arabic (1.0)

Continuation of ARAB 201-ARAB 202.

Involving further development of students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, this course exposes students to a variety of authentic Arabic materials, including print and online sources, incorporating MSA and diglossia. Focus on enhanced communication skills in Arabic and attention to the use of language in its sociocultural context.

Appropriate for students who have completed ARAB 201-ARAB 202 at Wellesley or the equivalent in summer courses or international study programs.

Instructor: Zitnick

Prerequisite: ARAB 201-ARAB 202 or permission of the instructor

Term(s): Spring. T 1:30-4:00

ARAB/MES/REL 368 - Writing Islamic History (1.0)

How did the major Muslim historians of the pre-modern period think about the past and its relationship to the present? What genres of historical writing did they develop, what topics and themes did they address, who were their audiences, and how did they shape and reflect the

mentalities of their times? This seminar explores the writing of history in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, with readings and analysis of historical accounts in English translation. Students who wish to take this course for credit in Arabic should have taken ARAB 202 or the equivalent and should enroll in ARAB 268.

Instructor: Marlow

Prerequisite: If taking course for credit in Arabic, ARAB 202 or equivalent

Cross-Listed as: REL 368

Term(s): Spring. T 1:30-4:00



POL2 358 - Political Conflict in the Middle East / The Conflict in Israel / Palestine (1.0)
This course explores the history and politics of the conflict in Israel / Palestine. We will study the conflict's development from its origins until the present and engage in an in-depth analysis of the societal, regional, and international processes that have been shaping the conflict's dynamic. We will focus on the conflicting narratives and perceptions of both Palestinians and Israelis over key moments and issues in the conflict's history to date. Among other issues, the course explores Palestine during the British mandate; the conflicting narratives over the 1948 war; Israel and the Palestinians between 1948-1967; the 1967 war and its implications for Israel and the Palestinians; the Palestinian citizens of Israel; the first and second *Intifadas*

and the challenges to the Oslo peace process; contemporary Israeli and Palestinian societies and politics; and the role of the United States and other 'outside' actors. As a conclusion, we will evaluate the current impasse and any plausible strategies and solutions.

Instructor: Ben-Josef Hirsch

Term(s): Spring



POL3 387 - Seminar: International Relations of the Middle East

What is the Middle East? Why has the Middle East so frequently served as a hotbed for conflict – the intractable conflict in Israel / Palestine, the civil war in Syria? What are the causes and consequences of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and of the nuclearization of Iran? What is the relationship between religion, politics and terrorism in the Middle East? What are the regional prospects for a democratic transformation? What explains the persistence of authoritarian regimes and what, if anything, has changed since the beginning of the Arab Spring? How have foreign interventions shaped the region? How does oil affect politics and conflict in the region? How does the current refugee crisis affect the stability of the region? What is the current and future role of the United States in the Middle East? This seminar applies international relations concepts and theories to engage with these questions. We begin our

seminar with the emergence of the modern Middle East state system and its position during the Cold War. We then explore a different thematic question every week. Ultimately, the goal of the seminar is to obtain an understanding of the complex political dynamics of the region and their potential consequences for international stability.

Instructor: Ben-Josef Hirsch
Term(s): Spring



REL 105 - Study of the New Testament (1.0)

The writings of the New Testament as diverse expressions of early Christianity. Close reading of the texts, with particular emphasis upon the Gospels and the letters of Paul. Treatment of the literary, theological, and historical dimensions of the Christian scriptures, as well as of methods of interpretation. The beginnings of the break between the Jesus movement and Judaism will be specially considered.

Instructor: Geller
Prerequisite: None
Term(s): Spring. M, Th 2:50-4:00

REL 209 - Religions of the Silk Road (1.0)

An introduction to the major religious communities and traditions of East, South and West Asia, particular attention to their contacts and interactions as facilitated by trade, travel and pilgrimage from antiquity until roughly the fifteenth century. The framework for our study of these religious cultures will be the “Silk Road,” which stretched from Eastern China to the Mediterranean Sea and linked together the many communities that thrived across Eurasia throughout the preindustrial era. In addition to Buddhism and Islam, the course will cover Confucianism, Daoism, Jainism, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism, as well as Manichaeism and Nestorian Christianity. Readings are drawn from foundational sacred texts, and the accounts of merchants, travelers and pilgrims. Additional attention to the material cultures and artistic works produced by the religious communities of the Silk Road.

Instructor: Marlow
Prerequisite: None. Not open to students who have taken REL 108.
Term(s): Spring. T, F 9:50-11:00



EVENTS

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Jewish Studies and Middle Eastern Studies present

MUSLIMS, JEWS AND CHRISTIANS: IN SEARCH OF CONVIVENCIA THROUGH MUSIC

Background photograph by tizi.org

including a performance by
The Boston Camerata and the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble

Joel Cohen, director of Camerata Mediterranea, will talk about the extraordinary and wonderful interdependence of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish musical traditions rooted in the medieval Spanish heritage. His illustrated talk will be followed by a collaborative musical performance featuring two of the finest musical ensembles in North America: The Boston Camerata and the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble.



March 30, 2015
Houghton Chapel | 7:00 pm
Reception to follow

Cosponsored by Religion, History, Music, Spanish, Peace and Justice Studies and Medieval and Renaissance Studies



Free and Open to the Public
For more information | raadnani
Disabilities | twice



FACULTY NEWS

Lidwien Kapteijns completed her last term as chair of the History Department on January 1 and is currently on leave. This last fall she taught the research seminar on Histories of Ethnic and Religious Violence (HIST395), in which several students wrote their papers on the Middle East, including Lebanon and Israel/Palestine. In 2014-2015 she was invited to speak about her book (*Clan Cleansing in Somalia: The Ruinous Legacy of 1991*, now in paperback) at Boston University's African Studies Center, to the Somali Students' Association of Northeastern University, and at the Human Rights Institute of the University of Connecticut. One of her leave projects is a study of women's

legal and economic agency in the small Indian Ocean port city of Brava (south of Mogadishu) on the basis of the (Arabic) qadi's court records of the town for 1893-1900. She is a founding member of WIIP (Wellesley Initiative on Israel-Palestine), a small faculty group that is committed to creating more academic space for critical analysis of Israel/Palestine on campus.

Rachid Aadnani, lecturer in Middle Eastern studies, has taught two sections of Arabic 201 and 202 over the course of 2014-15. This past spring semester he also taught his seminar on themes of Dissent and Resistance in the Cultures of North Africa and the Middle East. At the end of the month of

March he presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) that was held in Seattle, Washington. His paper was titled: *Linguistic and Literary Tensions and Moroccan Poetry: A Darija Renaissance?* He also co-organized a lecture and music concert entitled *Muslims, Jews and Christians: In Search of Convivencia through Music* which featured a lecture by Joel Cohen and a musical performance that brought together the Boston Camerata and The Sharq Arabic Music ensemble.



NEWS FROM OUR ALUMNAE

Caitlin Hu '07 has left COLORS Magazine in Italy to accept a position with Atlantic Media-owned news site Quartz. She would love to hear from fellow Wellesley grads working in MES or related fields for potential op-eds and contributions.

Prascilla Yoon '03 is currently working in Amman, Jordan as a project Manager for War Child UK. She works on child protection projects and runs a program that offers psychological and recreational activities for Syrian refugees at community centers in the host community of Irbid in northern Jordan.

Kellye Steindel '09 recently started a new position as Communications Manager on a USAID workforce development project based in Iraq. She is thrilled to be overseas and studying Arabic again.

Julia Craig Romano '11 earned an M.A. in Middle East Studies from the George Washington University in May 2014. During her graduate studies, she conducted research and studied Arabic in Oman and completed an internship in Egypt and Jordan. In September 2014, she began working as the Program Assistant for the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for

Scholars in Washington, DC. There she compiles the bi-monthly MENA Women's News Brief and has been featured in other Wilson Center publications. Her research currently focuses on political dynamics in Lebanon and Yemen and the political economies of GCC states. She would be happy to speak with current students and alums about the MES job market in DC and can be reached at: julia.romano@wilsoncenter.org

NEWS FROM OUR CURRENT STUDENTS

Andrea Aguilar '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Political Science)

Hannah Benson '16 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Micah Budway '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Peace and Justice Studies)

Siqi Gao '15 (Double Major in International Relations & Middle Eastern Studies)

Shawna Burhans '15 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & French)

Julia Foster '16 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Greta Gangestad '16 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Economics)

Talin Ghazarian '16 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Elizabeth Kapnick '15 (Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies & Political Science)

Tessa Kellner '17 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Eliza Marks '15, Major in Middle Eastern Studies, spent this past year applying what she learned abroad in Amman, Jordan, where she spent her '13-'14 academic year and summer '14, to her studies at Wellesley. She worked in the office for

Religion and MES, and looks forward to a being a Teaching Fellow in a high school History and Social Sciences Department.

Tala Nashawati '17 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Deanna Schiffman '15 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Elena Scott-Kakures '15, Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science, participated in the Albright Institute and interned with the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and the Committee on the Status of

Women in New York City over the past year. She has continued her Arabic and Middle Eastern studies during her senior year, and after leaving Wellesley she plans to pursue a career in International Relations, whether in research for think tanks or through NGO work. Eventually she plans to enroll in a Master's program. She has conducted several independent study research projects this year with Professor Craig Murphy on the connection between exhaustible resources and women's political mobilization, and on Islamic

feminism. She maintains that the single best decision she made during her Wellesley career was to enroll in Arabic 101 with Professor Aadnani.

Jillian Seymour '15, Double Major in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science, is not quite satisfied with the seven months she spent abroad in the Middle East, and has signed on with Peace Corps to serve in Ethiopia for the next two years following graduation. Even though she will be learning Amharic, she hopes to continue studying Arabic in

her free time. She would like to express her unwavering gratitude to the Middle Eastern Studies Program.

Ramisa Shaikh '15 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Abigail Stoltzfus '15 (Minor in Middle Eastern Studies)

Hailey Webster '17 (Major in Middle Eastern Studies)

Celeste Zumwalt '15 (Minor in Middle Eastern Studies)



DONORS

The Program of Middle Eastern Studies gratefully acknowledges the generous support it has received from Suzette Dauch '58 and Jay R. Schochet of Newport, Rhode Island.